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71 Applicant: ZAMBON S.p.A.
Via Cappuccini, 40
I-36100 Vicenza(IT)

72 Inventor: Pozzi, Franco
Via Jacopo Rezia, 11
I-22100 Como(IT)

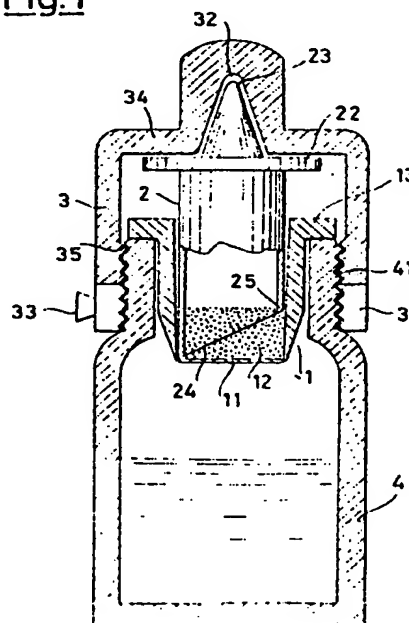
72 Inventor: Carenzi, Angelo
Via Rossini, 9
I-21052 Busto Arsizio VA(IT)

74 Representative: Marchi, Massimo et al,
c/o Marchi & Mittler s.r.l. Viale Lombardia 20
I-20131 Milano(IT)

54 Cap, reservoir and dropper assembly for bottles.

57 Cap, reservoir and dropper assembly for bottles comprising a reservoir (1) fitted with a collar (13) adapted for resting on the mouth of a bottle (4), a delivery piston (2) the lower part of which is shaped like a flute mouthpiece (24) and the upper part of which is shaped like a collar (22) and a cap (3) the lower part of which is in the form of a removable strip (33) wherein the delivery piston is equipped in its upper part with a dropper (23). In addition the cap may be equipped with means which cooperate with the delivery-piston collar to push said delivery-piston down-ward.

Fig. 1



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"CAP, RESERVOIR AND DROPPER ASSEMBLY FOR BOTTLES"

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This invention relates to a reservoir cap with dropper for bottles, in particular for extemporaneous solutions of pharmaceutical products.

It is known that some drugs are not stable in aqueous medium.

In this case the solution is prepared extemporaneously thus reducing the time of contact of the drug with the aqueous medium to the 7- to 15-day period during which treatment lasts and is sufficiently limited to not noticeably endanger the stability of the drug.

Known containers for preparing extemporaneous solution are very complicated and costly, especially in the case of solutions for ophthalmic use, and only rarely ensure sterility of the solution. Indeed, they consist of (i) a bottle containing the drug in the form of sterile powder or granules (ii) a second bottle or a vial containing the sterile aqueous solution, and (iii) a third sterile container containing a dropper.

At the time of use the bottle containing the powder and the vial containing the solution are opened and the latter is poured into the bottle. This pouring is less simple than it might seem because the bottle mouths are rather small and the vial mouths are still smaller. In addition, in many cases the patient who is to perform the operation is elderly and has unsteady hands and/or his sight is rather poor. The easy loss of the aqueous solution causes the pharmaceutical solution thus obtained to be more concentrated than expected and this changes the dosage of the drug.

In addition the numerous manual operations required easily

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compromise the sterility of the solution and the dropper.

5 In the case of single-dose drinkable solutions and extemporaneous syrup there is known the use of reservoirs which contain a powder and are fitted on the mouth of the bottle containing the aqueous solution into which the powder is then dropped by breaking or opening the reservoir. The reservoir is then removed and discarded. In the case of single-dose solutions the content is promptly drunk and the container is discarded as well. In the case of syrup a cap is applied to the bottle mouth.

10 A reservoir cap not removed after preparation of the extemporaneous solution and also functioning as a dispenser of the solution and in particular as a dropper has never been made heretofore.

15 The object of this invention is therefore a cap, reservoir and dropper assembly easy to apply and use for extemporaneous solutions which would also allow preparation of the solution without pouring from one bottle to another and without the operator having to handle the dropper thus ensuring both sterility of the solution and accurate dosage of the drug because the obtained solution is sure to have the desired concentration.

20 This has been achieved by means of a cap, reservoir and dropper assembly for bottles comprising a reservoir fitted with a collar adapted for resting on the mouth of a bottle, a delivery piston the lower part of which is shaped in the form of a flute mouthpiece and the upper in the form of a collar and a cap the lower part of which is in the form of a removable strip and is characterized in that the delivery piston is equipped in its upper part with a dropper. In addition the cap may be
30 equipped with means which cooperate with the delivery-piston

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collar to push said delivery-piston downward.

These and other features and advantages will appear clearly to those skilled in the art from this description and from the annexed drawings which illustrate one embodiment of the present invention and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal section of the cap, reservoir and dropper assembly mounted on a bottle as it appears before preparation of the solution, and

Fig. 2 is a view similar to that shown in Fig. 1 but showing the position in which the cap, reservoir and dropper assembly is found after preparation of the solution.

As may be seen in Fig. 1 a reservoir 1 containing granules or a powder 12 rests on the mouth of the bottle 4 by means of a collar 13.

Within this reservoir is placed a delivery piston 2 consisting of a hollow cylindrical body the lower part of which is shaped like a flute mouthpiece 24. The upper part of said delivery piston is fitted with a collar 22 and a dropper 23.

On the threaded neck 41 of the bottle 4 is then housed a cap 3 with threads 35 fitted with a tear-off strip 31 which acts as a retainer and a seal of guarantee and which is made integral with the bottle neck by known means (not shown); the upper part of the cap 3 has means 34 which can exert uniform pressure on the collar 22 and is shaped in such a manner that a recess 32 houses the dropper 23.

Preferably the upper part of the recess 32 is provided with a small protrusion (not shown) which closes the opening of the dropper thus preventing the solution to flow out when the bottle is put in a pocket or a bag.

The bottle 4 can be made of a rigid material such as glass or

polypropylene or a semirigid material such as polyethylene.

The reservoir is preferably made of a semirigid material such as polyethylene and on the circumference of the bottom 11 the thickness thereof is much reduced so as to form a weakened line.

5 The body of the delivery piston is preferably made of a rigid material such as polypropylene and of a rigid or semirigid material in its upper part in the form of a dropper 23; in addition the lower part in the form of a flute mouthpiece is shaped in such a manner as to have a cutting edge appropriately
10 incised or perforated to allow delivery of all the solution contained in the bottle.

The cap 3 may be made of a rigid or semirigid material. The tear-off strip 31 is connected to the cap body by connecting tabs (not shown) which facilitate removal thereof.

15 During packaging the powder or granules 12 are metered into the reservoir 1 on which is then mounted the delivery piston 2 and the assembly may be sterilized when necessary by usual methods.

20 This assembly is then mounted on the bottle 4 into which the solution was previously metered. Finally, the cap 3 is applied and the container thus prepared may be sterilized if necessary.

All the filling and sterilization operations may be performed using conventional techniques and machines.

25 At the time of use the tear-off strip or guarantee seal 31 is torn off. This operation is facilitated by the presence of a tongue 33.

30 The tear-off strip 31 also acts as a retainer since its height is the same as that separating the lower wall of the collar 22 from the upper part of the collar 13. Once the guarantee seal 31 has been torn off the cap can be screwed down further.

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During this operation the means 34 press on the collar 22 of the delivery piston 2 which, thanks to the lower part shaped in the form of a flute mouthpiece 24, cuts and detaches almost completely the bottom 11 of the reservoir, being facilitated therein by the weakening along the circumference of the bottom 11. Only the part at the highest point 25 of the flute mouthpiece is not cut, thus preventing the bottom 11 of the reservoir 1 from falling into the solution.

The granules or powder 12 fall into the solution, in this manner forming the desired pharmaceutical solution or suspension.

At the same time the dropper becomes functional, resting its collar 22 on the collar 13 of the reservoir.

At this point operation of the dropper bottle in accordance with the present invention is fully equivalent to that of dropper bottles of the type commonly used for stable pharmaceutical solutions.

In the illustrated embodiment the cap 3 is screwed onto the neck of the bottler but it may be made to fit under pressure alone.

The part 34 of the cap which functions together with the collar 22 to push the delivery piston downward is illustrated in a flat form but it may be in any other form provided it be capable of performing the required function.

When required the cap may be shaped in the form of a child proof cap of a known type.

The dropper is preferably made tight when it is desired to fill the reservoir with a liquid which will be mixed with the liquid contained in the bottle when the bottom 11 of the reservoir is cut; in this case a sharp protrusion (not shown)

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located in the upper part of the recess 32 pierces the upper part of the dropper when the cap 3 is pressed on the collar 22 and the latter rest on the collar 13.

Other embodiments can be easily made without departing from
5 the inventive idea illustrated above.

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CLAIMS

5 1. Cap, reservoir and dropper assembly for bottles comprising a reservoir (1) fitted with a collar (13) adapted for resting on the mouth of a bottle (4), a delivery piston (2) the lower part of which is shaped in the form of a flute mouthpiece (24) and the upper part of which is shaped in the form of a collar (22) and a cap (3) the lower part of which is in the form of a removable strip (31) and is characterized in that the delivery piston (2) is equipped in its upper part with a dropper (23).

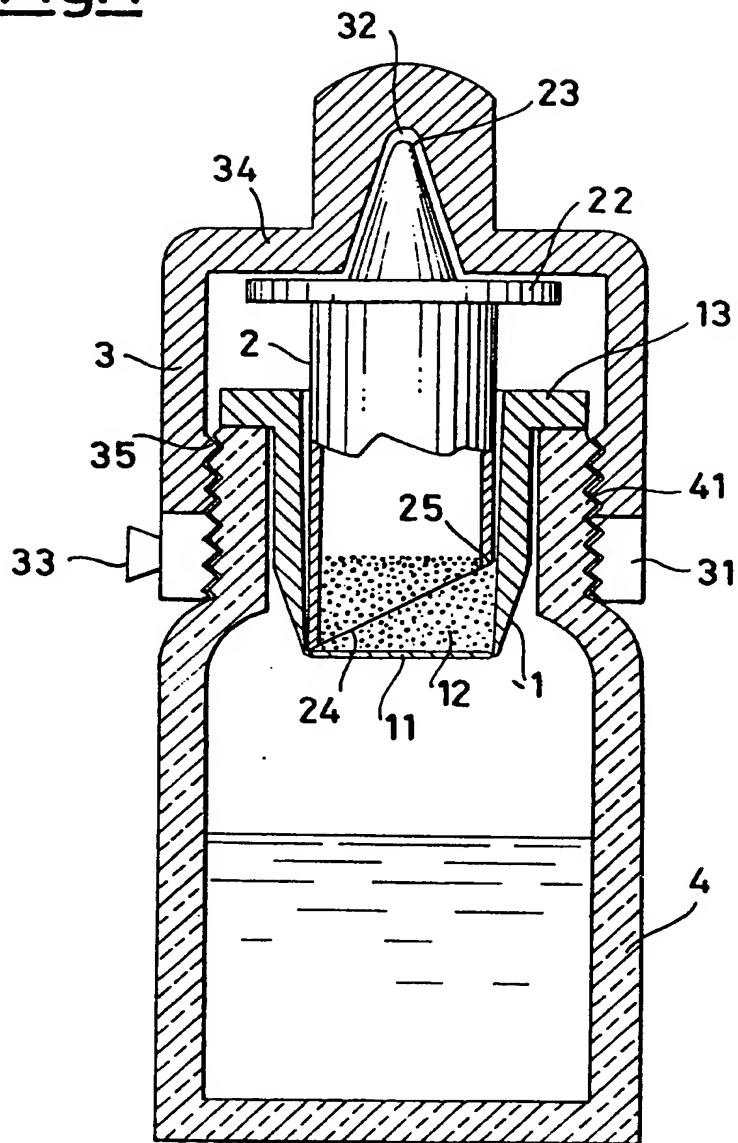
10 2. Cap, reservoir and dropper assembly in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that said cap is equipped with means (34) which cooperate with the collar (22) of the delivery piston to push the latter downward.

15 3. Cap, reservoir and dropper assembly in accordance with either of the above claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the height of the tear-off strip (31) is equal to the distance between the lower wall of the collar (22) and the upper part of the collar (13).

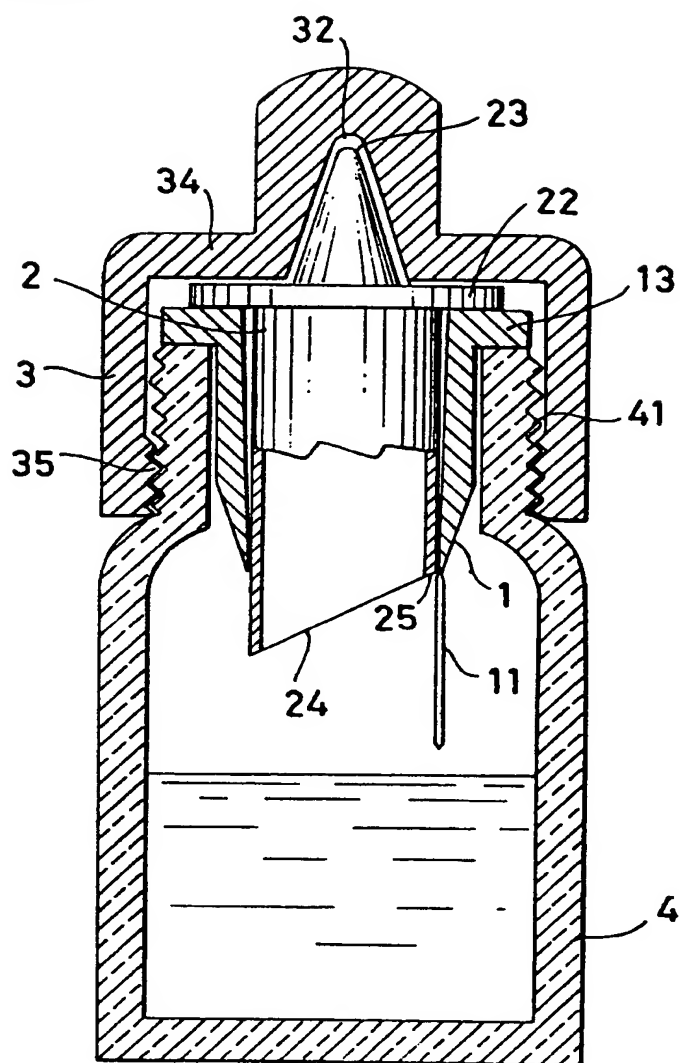
20 4. Cap, reservoir and dropper assembly in accordance with any of the above claims 1, 2 and 3, characterized in that the neck of the bottle (4) and the internal part of the cap (3) are threaded (41, 35).

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$\frac{1}{2}$ Fig. 1

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Fig. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Application number

EP 86 20 1322

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	CH-A- 567 978 (INGE S.P.A. et al.) * column 2, line 66 - column 6, line 5; figures 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 *	1	B 65 D 81/32 B 65 D 51/28
A		4	
Y	FR-A-2 270 163 (ETABLISSEMENTS LEON GOIFFON) * page 3, line 18 - page 4, line 35; figures 1, 2, 6 *	1	
A		2-4	
Y	GB-A-1 467 364 (SIGMA-TAU INDUSTRIE FARMACEUTICHE RIUNITE S.P.A.) * page 1, line 64 - page 2, line 31; figures 1-4 *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4) B 65 D 51/00 B 65 D 81/00
Y	DE-A-2 754 100 (A. MENARINI S.A.S.) * claims 1, 8; figures 1-7 *	1	
Y	US-A-2 859 898 (MENDENHALL) * column 2, line 61 - column 3, line 39; figures 2, 4 *	1	
A		2, 4	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 29-10-1986	Examiner SIMON J J P
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	GB-A-1 376 951 (L'OREAL) * page 3, lines 5-68; figures 1, 2 * -----	1,3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 29-10-1986	Examiner SIMON J J P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	